Claims:

1. A controlled-release formulation for oral administration containing a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor; provided that the formulation does not consist essentially of sildenafil, low molecular weight polyethylene oxide, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, tabletting excipients, and optionally one or more enteric polymers.

2. A formulation as claimed in claim 1, which is a sustained-release formulation.

3. A formulation as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2,~~ wherein up to 75% by weight of the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor is released from the formulation into the gastrointestinal tract after a period of time in the range 1-24 hours following administration.

4. A formulation as claimed in claim 2 ~~or claim 3~~, wherein the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor is embedded in a matrix from which it is released by diffusion or erosion.

5. A formulation as claimed in ~~any one of claims 2 to 4,~~ claim 2 wherein the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor is present in a core which is coated with a release rate-controlling membrane.

6. A formulation as claimed in ~~any one of claims 2 to 4,~~ claim 2 which comprises a core containing the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor and an outer coating impermeable to the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor, the outer coating having an aperture for release of the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor.

7. A formulation as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ claim 1 wherein the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor is sildenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A formulation as claimed in claim 7, wherein the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor is sildenafil citrate.

9. A formulation as claimed in claim 4, which also contains hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

10. A formulation as claimed in claim 4 ~~or claim 9~~, which also contains a buffering agent.

11. A formulation as claimed in claim 9 ~~or claim 10~~, wherein the hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose has a number average molecular weight in the range 80,000-250,000.

12. A formulation as claimed in ~~any one of claims 9 to 11,~~ claim 9 wherein the hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose has a degree of methyl substitution in the range 19-30%.

13. A formulation as claimed in ~~any one of claims 9 to 12,~~ claim 9 wherein the hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose has a degree of hydroxy substitution in the range 7-12%.

14. A formulation as claimed in ~~any one of claims 9 to 13,~~ claim 9 wherein the hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose makes up 10-50% by weight of the formulation.

15. A formulation as claimed in claim 5, wherein a multiplicity of coated cores is present.

16. A formulation as claimed in claim 15, wherein the core also includes a buffering agent.

17. A formulation as claimed in claim 5, ~~claim 15 or claim 16,~~ wherein the release rate-controlling membrane comprises an ammonio methacrylate copolymer and a plasticizer.

18. A formulation as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which is provided with a cosmetic coating.

19. A formulation as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor makes up 5-50% by weight of the formulation.

20. A formulation as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the rate at which the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor is released therefrom is substantially independent of the pH of the surroundings.

21. A process for the production of a formulation as defined in claim 4, ~~claim 5 or claim 6~~, which includes the steps of:

(a) mixing the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor with a matrix material, and pressing into tablets;

(b) forming a core comprising the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor and then coating the core with a release rate-controlling membrane; or

(c) forming a core containing the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor and then coating the core with a coating impermeable to the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor;

respectively.

22. Use of a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor in the manufacture of a formulation for the treatment or prevention of sexual dysfunction; characterized in that, following administration, the formulation releases the inhibitor over or after a sustained period of time.

23. The use of claim 22, characterized in that, following administration, the mammal's sexual function is substantially improved for or after a sustained period of time.

24. A method of treating or preventing sexual dysfunction, which comprises administering a controlled-release formulation, as defined in claim 1, but without proviso, to a mammal in need of such treatment or prevention.

25. The method of claim 24, characterized in that, following administration, the mammal's sexual function is substantially improved for or after a sustained period of time.

26. A method of improving sexual function in a mammal, which comprises administering a controlled-release formulation, as defined in claim 1, but without proviso, to the mammal.

27. The method of claim 26, characterized in that, following administration, the mammal's sexual function is substantially improved for or after a sustained period of time.

28. A method of increasing the probability of a nocturnal erection in a male mammal, which comprises administering a controlled-release formulation, as defined in claim 1, but without proviso, to the male mammal.

29. A dual release formulation for oral administration having a first portion comprising a controlled-release formulation as defined in claim 1, but without proviso, and a second portion comprising a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor in immediate release form.

30. Products containing a controlled-release formulation as defined in claim 1, but without proviso, and a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor in immediate release form, as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment or prevention of sexual dysfunction.